(d) An amount of Rs. 521.746 lakh has been released and an area of 19505 ha. has been covered with On Farm Development (OFD) works during the last five years in the State of West Bengal.

Hydrology Project

3641. SHRI R. C. SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes/schemes undertaken under Hydrology Project Phase-II in the State of West Bengal;

(b) whether the programmes/schemes undertaken under Hydrology Project Phase-I have been completed in the State of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) Hydrology Project is not being implemented in the State of West Bengal. Therefore, no programmes/schemes are undertaken or completed in the State under Hydrology Project Phase-I and Phase-II.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Study of Ganga

3642. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new study of major river systems of the world has revealed that Ganga is rapidly loosing its water;

(b) if so, the reasons for this phenomenon, according to study;

(c) whether the feasibility of taking any short-term measures has been examined; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) A paper titled "Changes in Continental Freshwater Discharge from 1984 to 2004" based on a study carried out by Mr. Aiguo Dai and others has been published in the Journal of Climate. The authors have concluded that the results reveal large variations in yearly stream flow for most of the world's large rivers and for continental discharge.

From the paper, it appears that the flow of river Ganga at Farakka has been used for which the observational record for the period from January, 1976 to December, 2000 is reported to be derived

using observation at a nearby or upstream station through linear regression. However, there is no specific mention in the paper about extent of variation in the flow of river Ganga.

The analysis of available data at important sites by Central Water Commission do not indicate any significant trend about change in flow pattern of river Ganga.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Kishanganga Project

3643. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have begun bilateral talks on Kishanganga project through the joint water commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that differences continue among Pakistan officials over India's position on the project; and

(c) whether there is any possibility of these differences being resolved in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) The Kishanganga HE project, as run of the river hydroelectric project, has been discussed in the 99th, 100th, 101st and 103rd meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission held in May/June 2007, May/June 2008, July 2008 and May/June 2009 respectively.

(b) and (c) Pakistan is of the view that differences/disputes over the project have arisen and need to be resolved under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 relating to the Settlement of Differences and Disputes. India has fully explained the compliance of the project with the provisions of the Treaty and has therefore affirmed that the stage of differences/disputes has not arisen and the issues can be further discussed at Commission level.

The Treaty provides for the settlement of issues at Permanent Indus Commission level or at Government level by mutual agreement or, through a Neutral Expert and /or Negotiators/Court of Arbitration and the resolution of the issues is contingent upon either of these.

National Rivers

†3644. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.